

REMARKS

This Response is in reply to the Office Action dated November 29, 2004. Based upon the foregoing amendments and following comments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Applicant is appreciative of Examiner's comments regarding the allowability of the claims 4, 6, 9, and 11 based upon the inclusion of the subject matter recited in any associated base claim and any intervening claims. As such, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 3 and 4. Additionally, original independent claim 7 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claims 8 and 9. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Original dependent claims 3-5 and 8-10 have been canceled. The cancellation of these claims should in no way be construed as acquiescence to any of the rejections stated in the Office Action. These claims are canceled solely to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Finally, please note that dependent claims 6 and 11 have been amended to correct references to the proper base claim.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 11 are presently pending. Based upon Examiner's recommendations, Applicant's respectfully submit the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/602,386
Amdt. dated February 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 29, 2004

If, in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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